



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

March 1, 2003

To: OPI MASS Representatives
From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff
Subject: Summary of OPI Activities for March 2003

Here is a summary of the current activities at the Office of Public Instruction for March 2003. This summary can also be found at www.opi.state.mt.us/MASSUpdates/.

Office of the State Superintendent

OPI Legislative Update: During the 2003 Legislative Session, Superintendent McCulloch will keep you up to date on what she and her staff are doing on behalf of K-12 public schools at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/>. Some other important links are:

- Legislative bills -- <http://leg.state.mt.us/css/sessions/58th/default.asp>
- OPI Legislative Bill Updates -- [Superintendent's web page](#)
- Montana's Education Partners -- [OPI Home Page](#), select Other Links Tab

If you are one of the schools that watched the [State of Education Address](#), using OPI video streaming technology, we would like to hear how it went for you. If you did not get a chance to watch it live, you can still view it at this website. OPI Contact: Madalyn Quinlan, 406-444-3168, mquinlan@state.mt.us.

Jay Erdie Named New Deputy Superintendent for Montana

Superintendent McCulloch announced that Jay Erdie will be Montana's next Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction. Jay Erdie is currently the Superintendent of the Roundup Public Schools. He also serves as the President of the School Administrators of Montana. Jay's 40 years of service to Montana schools will be an invaluable asset to the OPI. He succeeds acting Deputy Superintendent Spence Sartorius and Deputy Superintendent Bill Cooper, who retired in January. Jay Erdie will complete his current duties with the Roundup Public Schools and begin full time work at OPI in July 2003.

Highlights of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch's Activities during February:

- Attended the weekly Ed Forum meetings with our education partners
- Testified on HB107-Student Loan Repayment Assistance for Certain Teachers
- Spoke to the County Superintendent's conference
- Attended the State of Judiciary Speech in the House Chambers
- Testified on HB 73 - School Funding Bill
- Testified on HB193-Payment to School District for each FTE
- Testified on HB 495-Indian Education for All
- Participated in a conference call with the Department of Education concerning vocational education and the Perkins Act

- Appeared live on Yellowstone Public Radio with Jackie Yamanaka and Jim Gransbery
- Spoke to MEA-MFT at their legislative conference
- Delivered the State of Education address to a joint session of the House and Senate
- Testified on SB369- Bill to Transfer the duties of the State Superintendent to the Board of Public Education
- Interviewed by Bob Gilbert for CNN's Legislative Update program
- Attended the monthly Land Board meeting and an additional Land Board Meeting at the end of February
- Testified on HB 73 and HB193 before Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
- Testified on HB643- Bill to take another \$3 million from the Office of Public Instruction's agency budget
- Interviewed by the search chair for the search for a new Commissioner of Higher Education

Board of Public Education Meeting: March 13-14, 2003: The Board of Public Education will hold its next regular meeting March 13-14, 2003, in the conference room, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, 2500 Broadway, Helena. Tentative BPE agenda items the OPI will be involved with include the annual School Nutrition Programs report, No Child Left Behind update, assessment update, and accreditation status recommendations. Contacts: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education, (406) 444-6576 or Spencer Sartorius, (406) 444-4434.

Saturday School Approval

At the request of Superintendent McCulloch, the Legislature considered HB 78, an act transferring authority for approving Saturday school from the State Superintendent to the local school trustees. Until the passage of this bill, state law required the State Superintendent to approve the conduct of school on Saturday. Superintendent McCulloch concluded that was an unnecessary step for local districts to have to take. With the passage and approval of HB 78, that step is no longer necessary. Effective February 13, 2003, school district trustees may approve Saturday school for their district and there is no need to ask the State Superintendent's permission to conduct school on Saturday. The full text of HB 78 may be viewed or printed at <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2003/billhtml/HB0078.htm>

Making the Most of OPI Official E-mail

Two years ago, OPI created the Official E-Mail service to communicate with school districts. A "static" account has been created for each district, so that messages can be sent to the district (i.e., a legal entity) rather than a particular individual who works within that entity. The official accounts allow a school to auto-forward mail to any e-mail of their choice. As e-mail addresses change within your district, please make sure you adjust the auto-forward settings within your official account. Instructions on how to setup your official accounts can be found at: <http://www.metnet.state.mt.us/Officialemail.html>. You may also Login directly to your account at <http://www.metnet.state.mt.us/Login/>. If you need assistance maintaining your account, please e-mail us at Support@metnet.state.mt.us or call our help desk at 406-444-1626.

Newly Released School Prayer Guidance

Click on the following link for the newly released school prayer guidance <http://www.ed.gov/inits/religionandschools/guidance.html>. For further information, please contact Charles Hokanson at the US Department of Education at 202-401-6000 or by e-mail at Charles.Hokanson@ed.gov.

Librarian Alert – Music CDs available under the CDMAP Settlement

The Montana State Library has worked with the Montana Attorney General's Office to devise a plan to distribute approximately 17,000 music CDs received under the terms of the **Compact Disc Minimum Advertised Price (CDMAP) Antitrust Litigation Settlement**. CDs will be distributed to Montana libraries that either have a current, circulating CD-music collection **or** will attest that the library intends to create such a collection by the end of this calendar year. If you are interested in participating in this distribution, you must notify Tristen Shinnick in writing by **Thursday, March 6** at the State Library with the following message:

The _____ Library will participate in the CD settlement. I declare that the library has a circulating collection of music CDs or will initiate such a program by the end of 2003. If our library receives CDs that are not of use in our collection, the library will distribute them to non-profit, charitable, government, or public entities.

Name _____ Date _____

E-mails are acceptable and should be sent to tshinnick@state.mt.us. Faxed responses should be sent to Tristen at 444-0266. Mailed responses should be sent to Tristen's attention at PO Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620-1800.

Education Licensure

OPI's Education Licensure webpage (www.opi.state.mt.us/cert) now features:

- All licensure applications
- Fingerprint background check applications
- New rules for educator licensure
- Links to current opportunities for aspiring educators
- Job listings

OPI Contact: Margaret Bowles, 444-2577, mbowles@state.mt.us.

Assessment News

The February issue of **JUMP, the OPI Assessment newsletter** is online at:

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/newsletters/Feb2003AssessNews.pdf>

The newsletter includes questions and answers from the Iowa Test Administration Training Workshops, important dates and information regarding MontCAS, Phases 1 and 2, and links to important documents.

For the 2003 Administration of the Iowa Tests, there is a new form from the Office of Public Instruction. The **Authorized Signature Form** is for participation information and standard administration procedures as verified by the school administrator or designee. Forms, one for each grade, will be mailed to school administrators from OPI by March 10, the first day of the state testing window, and should be completed immediately after testing and returned to OPI by fax. School administrators will need to know the enrollment for each grade tested on the first day of the testing window selected by their district/school. A draft form is available online at:

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/AuthSigForm.pdf>

Test Coordinator Contact Information: We continue to update our Test Coordinator list and would appreciate your asking your test coordinators if they are receiving emails from the Assessment Office at OPI. If they are not, we may not have their current email

address and request that they email Lindy Miller at the Office of Public Instruction (lindmiller@state.mt.us) with the correct email address.

Spring 2003 Iowa Testing Timeline

Feb. 10 - Mar. 7	Test coordinators conduct and complete local training for test administration
Feb. 12	Riverside ships trailer packages to test coordinators
Feb. 17	Riverside ships materials to test coordinators
Feb. 24 – Mar. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test coordinators inventory and distribute materials• Test coordinators fax requests for needed materials
Mar.3 or beginning of test window	Grade 4 practice tests
Mar. 10-28	Test window including make up tests
Mar. 17 – April 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test coordinators ship materials• Districts submit authorized signature form to OPI
April 11—May 2	Districts receive local results—first in, first out
May 13	Tentative Score Interpretation Video Conference
April 25 – May 17	Districts review reports and return Report Verification Form to Riverside
June 9	OPI receives state results

2003 Iowa Test Administration Materials Online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/>

Montana/ACT Writing Sample

Nearly 4000 students are slated to write essays for the Montana/ACT Writing Sample in March. Any educator, but especially English teacher of grades 7-12, may attend the training and scoring sessions scheduled in Bozeman, April 1-2; Miles City, April 3-4; Great Falls, April 8-9; and Missoula, April 10-11. OPI Renewal Units are available for this training and lunches are provided. Participants must commit to both days at one site. There are no registration fees. Please contact Jan Clinard, 406-444-0652 or jclinard@oche.montana.edu by March 14 to register.

School Budgeting and Accounting

Preliminary Budget Data Sheets for FY 2003-04

Budget Data Sheets containing certified ANB and other budgeting information for FY2003-04 were posted on the OPI website on March 1. Please remember that the Legislature, which continues until late April, is still considering bills that would change much of the information reported on the Data Sheets, so districts should consider the data preliminary. A booklet about budgeting called "FY2003-04 General Fund Overview and Worksheets," is posted on the OPI website in the <School Finance> area. OPI Contact: Joan Anderson (406) 444-1960 or janderson@state.mt.us.

Audits

1) FY2001-02 Audit deadlines

A-133 "Federal" audits for FY 2001-02 are due to OPI by March 31, 2003. This affects districts and cooperatives that spent over \$300,000 of federal money (including USDA commodities) during FY 2001-02. For districts and cooperatives that spent less than \$300,000 of federal funds and received at least \$200,000 of revenue under all sources during that year, audits for FY 2001-02 are due June 30, 2003.

2) CFDA Numbers for Federal Grants

OPI recently updated and posted the list of Catalog of Federal and Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers for the grants that are commonly received by local education agencies in Montana. The list is included as Appendix F of the OPI State and Federal Grants

Handbook. You can find it on the OPI website at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/FederalPrograms/handbook.html> OPI Contact: Mike Waterman (406) 444-4524 or mwaterman@state.mt.us.

MASBO Plans Budget Workshops

The Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) will hold budget workshops in 3 locations during March. Workshops are scheduled for March 10 in Missoula, March 31 in Great Falls, and April 7 in Billings. Participants will bring their district's budget data and will work through the general fund budget during the session using manual worksheets. Presenters will be MASBO members and OPI staff members. There is a charge for the workshop.

For trustees and others who prefer a shorter overview of school budgeting, sessions will be held a day earlier in each location: March 9 in Missoula, March 30 in Great Falls, and April 6 in Billings. Contact Lynda Brannon, MASBO Executive Director, at (406) 442-5599 to register.

Technology Fund and Flexibility Fund – Elections?

Both funds will appear on the FY 2003-04 budget. However, OPI will not be making any state payments under either of the funds for FY 2003-04 unless Legislation appropriates the funding after this writing, which is not likely. Districts may ask for voter approval for a limited Technology Fund levy under 20-9-533, MCA. Districts cannot ask voter approval for a Flexibility Fund levy because law restricts the voted levy to a percentage of the state's payment, which will be zero (20-9-544, MCA). OPI Contact: Bonnie Maze (406) 444-3249 or bmaze@state.mt.us.

Indirect Cost Applications

Applications for indirect cost rates for FY2003-04 will be mailed to schools by the end of March and will be due to OPI in May. Indirect cost rates are OPTIONAL, but a district must have a rate approved by OPI each year in order to draw indirect cost recoveries off state and federal grants. OPI Contact: Jim Oberembt (406) 444-1257 or joberembt@state.mt.us

School Elections Handbook

The *School Election Handbook*, which was written as a collaborative effort between the Office of Public Instruction, MT Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), the Office of the Secretary of State, is posted on the OPI website under the <School Finance> area: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/SchoolFinance/forms/ElecHandbook.pdf> It is in pdf format and can be downloaded and read using Adobe Acrobat software. OPI Contact: Mike Waterman (406) 444-4524 or mwaterman@state.mt.us.

FY2003-04 Tuition Rates

The maximum regular education tuition rates for attendance during FY 2003-04 have not changed since last year. Rates will be:

- \$390 for Pre-K and Kindergarten
- \$781 for grades 1-8
- \$1,041 for grades 7-8 if the school runs an accredited 7-8 program or junior high
- \$1,041 for grades 9-12

Rates are set under MCA 20-5-323 based on 20% of the per-ANB rate for the year of attendance. Special education add-on rates are calculated under ARM 10.16.3818. OPI Contact: Joan Anderson (406) 444-1960 or janderson@state.mt.us.

Pupil Transportation

1st Semester Transportation Payments in March

OPI will distribute the 1st semester state transportation payments on March 25, 2003. When the payment is made, OPI will email each district and County Superintendent stating that a payment advice has been posted on the web showing the amount paid by the state and due to be paid by each county. The County Superintendent should then order the payment of the county transportation aid. The second semester payment will be made in June. OPI Contact: Maxine Mougeot, (406) 444-3096 or mmougeot@state.mt.us.

Bus Driver Training Opportunities

March 3, 2003 in Billings at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Hours are from 9:00 until 4:00. Trainers include a uniformed officer from the Montana Highway Patrol; Doug Kellie from Belgrade Public Schools - Defensive Driving; Maxine Mougeot from OPI - Standards for School Buses in Montana 2002; Joe Pierce from Operation Lifesaver, Prudy Holmun - Summer and Winter Driving. This training is sponsored by Mark Simonson from Absarokee Public Schools and Gary Castle from Billings Truck Center. For complete information and to register drivers to attend, please contact Mark Simonson at (406) 328-4583 or you may fax the information to Mark at (406) 328-4077. Please include a contact name and number plus the names of any drivers that you would like to attend.

March 15, 2003 in Drummond at the library across the street from the high school or in the gymnasium depending on the number attending. Hours are from 8:00 until 5:00. Bring a sack lunch - snacks and coffee will be provided. Trainers include a uniformed officer of the Montana Highway Patrol; Doug Kellie from Belgrade Public schools - Student Management; Maxine Mougeot from OPI -Standards for School Buses in Montana 2002; Rick Flink from Operation Lifesaver; Virginia Deland from PLUK ("Just What is That Kid Doing On My Bus?"); and Luke Avery from Karst Stage in Bozeman - Advanced Driver Training. Jack Welsh from Billings Truck Center in Billings will have an air brake bus available for anyone wanting to take the Air Brakes Endorsement test for the CDL. Jack will provide several one-hour sessions throughout the day. Once drivers receive Jack's training, they should be able to take the endorsement test with no difficulty. For complete information and to register drivers to attend, please contact Bob Sackman at (406) 288-3147 or you may fax the information to Bob at (406) 793-5699. Please include a contact name and number plus the names of any drivers that you would like to attend.

ESEA Consolidated Application Workshops-Advanced Notice

Mark Your Calendars Now

Three workshop opportunities covering the 2003-04 Annual ESEA Consolidated Application will be available in April 2003. The workshops will begin with a videoconference broadcast to ten METNET sites on the afternoon of April 4, 2003. The workshop will start at 1:30 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The videoconference will be followed by two on-site workshops that will cover the same application material. The workshops will be held in Billings, April 15 in the Sheraton Hotel and in Missoula, April 18 in Ruby's Inn, from 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. The workshops will be conducted by OPI staff in April to assist representatives from eligible districts with the preparation of the 2003-2004 Annual Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal Programs Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title II, Part D; Title IV, Part A; Title V, Part A; Title VI, Part B, Subpart 1; and Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2. Pre-registration is required due to the limited seating capacity at the workshop locations. Electronic pre-registration will be available for your use beginning March 10, 2003, on the OPI Web site <http://www.opi.state.mt.us>. OPI Contacts: METNET workshop, Carrie Frohreich, cfrohreich@state.mt.us or Billings, Missoula workshops, Marion Erp, merp@state.mt.us.

Supplemental Providers List

A list is posted on the OPI website of Montana's Approved Supplemental Service Providers (as required by Title I, Part A, Sec. 1116 of No Child Left Behind) for tutoring services for low-achieving, low-income students in Title I schools that have been identified for improvement for two or more years.

<http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/TitleI/ApprovedProvider.pdf>.

Upcoming Conferences

Families & Learning Conference 2003

March 3-5, 2003

West Coast Colonial Hotel, Helena, MT

A statewide conference on Families and Learning will be held in Helena, March 3-5, 2003. The conference is a professional development opportunity collaboratively designed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, the Montana Parent Information Resource Center, the Montana Statewide Family Literacy Initiative, the Department of Education at Montana State University-Bozeman and the Montana Head Start State Collaboration Project. It will begin on Monday with a plenary session on *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, a seminar built around Dr. Ruby K. Payne's groundbreaking book by the same title. Western storyteller Jim Garry will provide entertainment Monday evening. For further information on this conference, contact Chloe Fessler at 406/543-7847.

Montana Alternative Education Association 2003

March 20-21, 2003

Carroll College (Campus CTR, Lower Level), Helena

A registration fee of \$50 includes conference and breakfast/lunch for both days. The registration fee after March 14, 2003 is \$75. To register, contact Claudia Morley or Lisa Lowney at llowney@helena.k12.mt.us or by phone at 406-447-8880. Payment by check is preferred, payable to **MAEA**.

Montana/Wyoming Indian Education Association Conference

The Office of Public Instruction Montana Character Education Project has partnered with the Montana/Wyoming Indian Education Association (MWIEA) to host the MWIEA Spring Conference on March 29 through April 1st at the WestCoast Colonial Hotel in Helena.

OPI Contact: Peggy Azure, pazure@state.mt.us, 406-444-0466.

Intent to Participate in State Gifted and Talented Program, 2003-2004

On February 19, OPI notified districts that in order to participate in the state Gifted and Talented grant program during 2003-2004, the district must state its ***intent to participate by March 9, 2003*** (postmark date). As of that deadline, available state grant funds will be prorated among the districts intending to participate. OPI expects to mail next year's application packet and notification of grant award about March 25, 2003. The packet will be mailed to all districts whose intent to participate was received on or before the deadline. The notification was sent to School District Authorized Representatives and included a form for schools to use to indicate their intent to participate. For those schools wishing to participate, the completed form must be signed and returned to Kathleen Mollohan at OPI no later than March 9, 2003. OPI Contact: Kathleen Mollohan, 444-4317, or kathym@state.mt.us.

Special Education

Satellite Conference: Roles, Preparation and Supervision of Paraprofessionals

March 5, 2003 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (ET)

The challenge of understanding roles and providing personnel development have become acute as state and local agencies respond to mandates from the federal government and statements from professional organizations. This conference will provide state and local agencies with guidance to develop state and local policy and systems that impact paraprofessional roles, preparation and supervision. It will also address the skills necessary for teachers and administrators who supervise paraprofessionals. In addition, ethical and professional issues regarding the roles of teachers and administrators when the paraprofessional delivers instruction to students with disabilities will be discussed. The presenters include Teri Wallace, Ph.D. of the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota; Barbara Jo Stahl, Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, Special Education Services. The moderator is Bill East, Ed.D., Executive Director, NASDSE. The March 5, 2003, Satellite Conference Handouts are available on the National Association of State Directors of Special Education web site at <http://www.nasdse.org/satellite03/satfram.htm>. OPI Contact: Susan Bailey-Anderson, 444-2046, sbanderson@state.mt.us.

Career and Technical Education

Theresa Sheldon began February 24th as the Health Occupations Education Specialist in the Division of Career, Technical and Adult Education. This new position was funded by Federal grant dollars and private sector funds. Montana's healthcare workforce shortage offers an opportunity to address an urgent statewide need while providing comparatively well-paid employment in local communities throughout the state, not just in urban areas. By preparing Montana students for jobs that already exist, students can receive a quality education in this state and then find jobs that pay 21% more than the average Montana wage. These opportunities exist even in rural communities.

The Health Occupations Education Specialist can help local schools integrate these elements into a meaningful curriculum that effectively prepares students for dynamic careers in health care. Exemplary health occupations education programs are well established in many other states, and those programs are willing to share their expertise and resources, including models for reaching students in rural areas. Contact Theresa to address any questions or concerns or discuss how your school can participate in this endeavor. Theresa has a strong background both as a medical practitioner and an educator in the public school system. Please get in touch with her if you are interested in developing or expanding your health sciences program. Theresa can be reached at 406-444-0714 or tsheldon@state.mt.us.

Health Enhancement and Safety Division

The **21st Century Community Learning Center Program** grant application for Program Year 2003-2004 is available on OPI's web site under Program and Services of OPI. This competitive grant program is designed to fund out-of-school time projects, which complement the students' regular academic program and provide a variety of enrichment activities. Approximately \$1.2 million will be available for PY '03-04, and funded projects should anticipate funding for a period of five years. For additional information, contact Gary Pfister at 444-3000 or gpfister@state.mt.us.

Suicide Prevention: You can register to conduct an SOS High School Suicide Prevention Program in your school this year. This proven, evidence-based, three-year-

old program is cosponsored by the American School Counselor Association and is an invaluable tool for suicide and violence prevention as well as depression recognition. SOS is proven to increase help-seeking by 150% and has an excellent safety profile.

During the 2001-02 school year-the second year of the program-more than 1000 high schools nationwide registered to participate and more than 218,000 students learned about the program's important message of awareness and empowerment. For further information about the SOS High School Suicide Prevention Program please go to www.mentalhealthscreening.org or call Screening for Mental Health at 800/253-7658.

The Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (CHEF) has developed an online search engine specifically designed for prevention educators. Go to www.chef.org to access this helpful resource.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has just posted a new section on its website for kids, titled: *National Security Emergencies*. The section helps explain terrorism, biological and chemical weapons and how to prepare for these threats in simple language children can understand. The site provides tips on preparing a family disaster supply kit, preparing a disaster communication plan and provides useful information on what to do in cases of an explosion or a biological, chemical, nuclear or radiological attack. There is also a section for parents, and a photo page of 9/11 heroes. The site will be linked under Web Links on the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities web page: <http://www.fema.gov/kids/nse/>

OPI encourages High School counselors to inform their seniors about the **Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship**. Approximately 23 scholarships are awarded statewide each year to outstanding Montana seniors and graduates of GED programs. Minimum qualifications include, among other criteria, that applicants are graduating seniors or a graduating GED students for the 2002-2003 school year; have a 3.60 or higher GPA in a college preparatory curriculum and have a cumulative score of 1380 on the SAT or 30 on the ACT. The scholarship can be renewed up to 3 more years. The usual monetary award is \$1500 per student, per year.

Application materials are available from high school counselors. Applications must be postmarked by March 7, 2003.

The Montana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance - MAHPERD - (the state professional association for health and physical education teachers) is again sponsoring a **special recognition program for outstanding health enhancement teachers**. The superintendents and principals in all of Montana's schools are being asked to nominate teachers in their schools who the administrator believes is an outstanding teacher in presenting health enhancement content material to students. To nominate a teacher, please e-mail the teacher's name, school name, school address, phone number and, if possible, email address to Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton at e-mail scheesterfield@helena.k12.mt.us.

HIV/AIDS Teacher Trainings: An HIV/AIDS Teacher Trainings is scheduled for Pine Hills (March 20). A 5-6 hour teacher training offers an HIV/AIDS "101," policy for education, infected students and staff, and body fluid cleanup including practices for Universal Precautions, reasons for abstinence, and age-appropriate K-12 HIV/AIDS teaching strategies. Many school districts have scheduled a training to fulfill PIR day requirements. For more information or to arrange training, contact Susan Court at 444-3178 or scourt@state.mt.us.

Youth Grants for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

There are grants available for groups of youth working to increase healthy eating and/or physical activity. Havre HELP is offering four \$1000 stipends, (15) \$500 stipends, and four \$300 stipends through their YAHOU grant program. The youth applying must be between grades 4 and 12, have an adult supervisor, and complete the application themselves. Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis. Projects must be completed by May 31st. If you have an interested group of youth, contact: [265-6206](tel:265-6206)

Traffic Education

2003 Montana Traffic Education Association/Office of Public Instruction conference

Dates: Sunday noon, April 27 – Tuesday noon, April 29, 2003
Registration: \$135.00 includes five meals. Contact Jim Carroll at (406) 278-3285
Location: Grouse Mountain Lodge - \$50.00 per night. Call 406-862-0326 A.S.A.P
Theme: The Exceptional Driver Educator
Agenda: Emphasis will be given to special needs considerations in driver education, and issues following the tragic driver education crash in Manhattan. Office of Public Instruction attorney, Jeff Weldon will speak on liability and Senior Investigator, Gary Van Etten, of the National Transportation Safety Board will address their investigation into the crash. Other speakers will conduct a variety of workshops useful to driver education teachers fulfilling their jobs with a minimum of risk to their students, themselves, and the district.

Registration packets were mailed to schools and instructors in early March. The registration form is available and downloadable from the Driver Education/Traffic Education page on the OPI website, www.opi.state.mt.us. One college credit through Montana State University—Northern (MSUN), or renewal units are available.

Advanced Driver Training

One-day workshops will again be offered in Lewistown, Montana in June, July and August. These workshops are designed to provide advanced training to driver education teachers and school bus drivers. For a list of dates and notification of intent to register, visit the Advanced Driver Education page of the OPI Website www.opi.state.mt.us. This training qualifies for the annual inservice requirements for bus drivers. Driver education teachers can take the workshop for one semester credit through MSUN as partial requirement for the traffic education minor.

Foundation Coursework for TE Teachers offered in Havre and Billings

Montana State University-Northern will offer the required traffic education courses for driver education teachers in both Havre and Billings this summer. The first session will be offered in Havre June 25 – July 11 (14 days) and the second session will be offered in Billings July 14 – August 5 (14 days). Each session will include both Traffic Education I and II totaling 6 semester credits. For more information contact Bob Kurtz at MSUN, 1-800-662-6132 x 3738.

School Nutrition

Celebrating National School Breakfast Week March 3 through 7

The theme is **Make Your Morning Count with School Breakfast**. Many Montana schools will be celebrating with special breakfast menus, recipes and other fun activities during the week. If you want to learn more about how to start a breakfast program in your school, contact School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2501. For resources for National School Breakfast Week celebrations, call Katie Bark at (406) 994-5641 or visit www.asfsa.org/nsbw/.

School Food Service Peer Mentoring Mini-Grant Program deadline March 14

Are you interested in trying something new in your school nutrition program like starting a breakfast program, afterschool snack program or summer feeding program? Are you interested in learning how to increase your participation in your school lunch or breakfast programs? How about implementing a "recess before lunch" policy or learning how to serve reimbursable a la carte meals? If so, you may want to take advantage of the School Food Service Peer Mentoring Mini-Grant Program. The Montana Team Nutrition Program is sponsoring mini-grants to be used by school food service staff to visit another school food service program and learn more about a specific school nutrition program and/or policy implementation during the 2002-2003 school year. Twenty mini-grants will be awarded to School Food Authorities (SFAs). Distribution will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications will be accepted no later than March 14, 2003. If you would like an application packet, call Katie Bark at (406) 994-5641 or email kbark@state.mt.us.

Best Practice Awards deadline March 17

The deadline to submit nominations for the Best Practice Awards to School Nutrition Programs is March 17. Categories include: Reaching Needy Children in the Summer; Increasing School Breakfast Program Access; Increasing Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables; Healthy School Nutrition Environment; and Eat Smart Play Hard Campaign. Call School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2501 for more information. The nomination form is posted on the School Nutrition Programs website at www.opi.state.mt.us

Nutrition Seminar for Schools on or near Reservations March 28-29

The Montana Team Nutrition Program invites you to a free conference, *Schools and Communities-Working Together for Healthy American Indian Families-Defeating Diabetes*, March 28th-29th, 2003 in Great Falls, MT. The conference is a joint effort between the Montana Team Nutrition Program (OPI), the Montana Diabetes Project (IHS), and the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program (DPHHS). School teams, including a school food service staff manager, an administrator, a school board member, a nurse and/or a teacher are encouraged to attend. Participants will have increased awareness of the important role schools play in the prevention of diabetes and obesity; focusing on nutrition and physical activity. Participants will be provided with information and tools to make changes to promote good health within their schools and communities. Travel scholarships will be available. For more information, please contact the Montana Team Nutrition Program at (406) 994-5641. Email Molly at stenberg@montana.edu or Katie at kbark@state.mt.us.

Summer Food Service Program application deadline May 9

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. Children who aren't hungry learn better, behave better and feel better. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps children get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school. Two types of programs are available, the area-wide program and the enrolled program. An area-wide program requires that at least 50 percent of the children living within the area served be eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program income eligibility guidelines. In an enrolled site, 50 percent or more of the children enrolled in a program must qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Application packets will be sent April 1. Call Sofia Janik at (406) 444-2521 or (406) 444-2501 for more information. The deadline for new sponsors to apply for the Summer Food Service Program is May 9, 2003.

Got Milk?

If your school is not currently participating in any other School Nutrition Program, or if you have kindergarten and/or pre-school children who do not have access to your Lunch or Breakfast Programs, your school is eligible to participate in the Special Milk Program. This program provides reimbursement for milk served to children. The goal of this program is to enable schools to provide milk at a reduced price or free to students. The Special Milk Program is an easy way for you to help provide your students the nutrients they need to grow and learn. If you are interested in more information or an application packet please call School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2501.

Why Rural Matters 2003

The Rural School and Community Trust says it is urgent that policymakers pay particular attention to rural schools, where one in three of America's school-age children attend public school. In order of urgency, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, North Dakota, South Dakota, North Carolina, Arkansas, West Virginia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee, Montana and Maine are regions that are chronically depressed, suffer large areas of out-migration, and are deeply distressed by changes in the global economy.

http://www.ruraledu.org/keep_learning.cfm?record_no=647 (source: Connect for Kids (www.connectforkids.org))

HUD's Teacher Next Door Program

The [Teacher Next Door \(TND\) program](#), sponsored by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD), is designed to encourage teachers to buy homes in low and moderate-income neighborhoods. The TND program is open to any person "employed full-time by a public school, private school, or federal, state, county, or municipal educational agency as a state-certified classroom teacher or administrator in grades K-12." Participants must certify that they are employed by an educational agency that serves the school district/jurisdiction in which the home they are purchasing is located. Properties are single-family homes located in [Revitalization Areas](#), HUD-designated neighborhoods in need of economic and community development and where there is already a strong commitment by the local governments. Rules for the Teacher Next Door Sales Program may be found at [Housing Notice 99-30](#). For more information, please contact your local HUD Homeownership Center or call 1-800-217-6970. You will find a directory to your HUD Homeownership Center on the web at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hoc/hsgfhocs.cfm>. Information is also available from the HELP line at 1-800-217-6970.

Summer Courses at University of Montana's Practical Ethics Center

<http://www.umt.edu/ethics/>

The University of Montana offers the nation's only graduate degree and mid-career programs in teaching ethics. With over 40 free-standing courses in ethics, The University of Montana is the nation's laboratory school for teaching ethics. As course dates approach, registration forms, course descriptions, preliminary syllabi, faculty information, and travel information will be available on our website at www.umt.edu/ethics. For more information, contact: Practical Ethics Center, (406) 243-5744 or 243-6605, ethics@selway.umt.edu

National Youth Science Camp (NYSC)

June 26-July 21, 2003

Deadline: March 3-14 (Depending upon Science Fair entered)

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High ability graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in science, mathematics, engineering or medicine, and who participate at the regional and/or state science fairs, are eligible to apply for the National Youth Science Camp. Four students from each regional fair and the state fair will be nominated. From these finalists, a team of judges will select two delegates to receive expense-paid trips to the camp in West Virginia. There, they will interact with scientists from across the nation. For details on eligibility, application and judging procedures, and the judging rubric choose NYSC on the Montana Science Fair at website at www.mtsciencefair.org.

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, Grades 7-12

Grade 7-12 math and science teachers are encouraged to apply for the 2003 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Beginning in 2003, the competition will alternate each year between teachers of grades 7-12 and teachers of grades K-6. In 2003, teachers of grades 7-12 mathematics and science in each state are eligible. Teachers of grades K-6 will be eligible for the Presidential Awards in 2004. The application requires a video lesson presentation and less written material. Each presidential awardee will receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation and be invited to attend (with a guest) recognition events in Washington, D.C. Grade K-6 teachers will be eligible for PAEMST in 2004.

Tips for applying are available at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/titleiiparta/> under Presidential Awards for Excellence. Advice in writing your application is available from the Montana Association of Presidential Awardees. Contact the president, Larry Kaber, at chark@centurytel.net or 406-752-1275 or visit <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/TitleII/mentors.html> for a list of mentors available.

Nomination and application forms are available from Sharon Mikat, Office of Public Instruction PO Box 202501, Helena MT 59620-2501, 406-444-0906 or smikat@state.mt.us or can be downloaded from https://www.ehr.nsf.gov/pres_awards/. Montana nominations and applications should be returned to Sharon Mikat at the above address. Applications must be postmarked by May 1, 2003.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The Green School Project is a foundation of educators that seek and secure funding to provide monetary rewards and educational resources to schools, libraries, districts, state educational departments, and government offices. The project pays schools to recycle used printer cartridges, copying machine toner cartridges, pagers, and/or cell phones. The foundation gave approximately \$70,000 in rewards to participants for the month of October, November, December, and January. To enroll, go to the Green School website at <http://www.greenschoolproject.com>.

Art on Wheels for Schools

The Art Mobile of Montana, a traveling art education program, comes right to your door with a van full of an original exhibit of quality art works by Montana artists. Schools and groups that schedule this service receive an interactive presentation of the art, followed by art lessons. Several fine art lessons are available, taught by a professional art educator with focus on art fundamentals and individual expression. The Art Mobile is available during school hours, after school and evenings. Lessons are aligned with the Montana Performance Standards for the Arts. Continuing education for teachers is also available while the Art Mobile is on site.

The Art Mobile (a Non-Profit organization) is supported in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council, an agency of State government and by the National Endowment for the Arts. "Why is art important to have?" is one of the questions encouraging discussion during presentations. Participants are challenged to explore artists' meanings and relate understandings of their personal meaning of the artwork. Ronald McDonald House Charities has funded Art Mobile art carrying cases and portable exhibition walls, new this year, which display the exhibit of paintings, prints, and sculpture by Montana artists, including Native Americans. For scheduling a visit or continuing education workshop in art for teachers, contact Director Sara Colburn: (406) 683-2999 scolburn@bmt.net.

2003 McGraw Prize in Education

Since 1988, the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education has been annually awarded to three individuals who have had an unusually positive impact in the field of education. Past honorees include U.S. Secretaries of Education Roderick Paige, Richard Riley and Terrel Bell, former First Lady Barbara Bush, former Governor James Hunt, as well as university presidents, principals, superintendents and educators from across the country. Prize recipients are selected by a distinguished Board of Judges who review eligible nominations. Recipients are honored at a dinner in New York City and receive a \$25,000 prize. Only individuals who are presently committed to the cause of education are eligible for nomination. Nomination deadline: March 14, 2003.

http://www.mcgraw-hill.com/community/mcgraw_prize/2003/